

Lakes like less lawn.

Determine what parts of the lawn you actually use for recreation and stop mowing the rarely used areas. You can supplement the no-mow areas with beautiful native shrubs and flowering plants that enhance visual appeal and property value.



Frame your view of the lake with native plants that attract wildlife and provide privacy for your family. A lush, wide ribbon of trees and shrubs is the number one lake protection tool.

What you do in the watershed affects the lake!

Have you ever seen a muddy stream during a rainstorm? When we alter the landscape to build houses and roads, we expose bare soil that can get washed down hill during a rainstorm. Any activity in the lake's watershed, everything uphill of a lake, can influence the lake. When it rains, water flows by gravity over land, in streams and ground water to the lake. In undeveloped watersheds, natural vegetation slows the flow of rainwater and filters out nutrients that can pollute lakes.



When we plant lawns and remove trees and shrubs, we eliminate the natural filtration process. Rain turns into polluted stormwater as it flows over impervious surfaces that are created when we alter the natural landscape. Impervious surfaces include roofs, driveways, parking areas, patios and most lawns. Yards and lawns become so compacted that 40% to 70% of stormwater runs off and carries pollutants into our lakes.

You can make a difference.

During a rainstorm, observe where the stormwater flows. Next, direct the stormwater flow to a vegetated area called a "buffer". A buffer is a landscape with an abundance of trees, shrubs, ground cover and "duff". Duff is all the twigs, leaves, and pine needles that our culture believes is messy and needs to be raked up. Leave it alone. Duff is nature's mulch; it nourishes the vegetation and holds moisture during a dry spell. When stormwater enters a buffer, it slows and seeps into the ground where soil particles bind phosphorus and hold it for use by plants.



What is harming your lake?

PHOSPHORUS! It is not just in fertilizer. All the pollutants pictured here contain phosphorus. Eroded soil from yards and particularly from roads is the number one water pollutant.



Phosphorus in soil and fertilizer promotes plant growth in your garden and in our lake! In lakes, however, the crop is algae, rather than garden vegetables. Algal blooms smell terrible, turn water green and use up oxygen. Lower oxygen levels in the water "choke" fish. Swimming, fishing and lakeside living lose their appeal and the value of your property goes down. You may think that just a little pet waste or extra fertilizer won't make a difference; but a little pollution from you, from your neighbor, from others around the lake, year after year, does add up to a polluted lake.

Now You're LakeSmart

Most people want to enjoy the lake, relax and see nature—NOT mow the lawn and rake the yard.



For more information contact:



www.MaineDEP.com
click on *LakeSmart*
800-452-1942

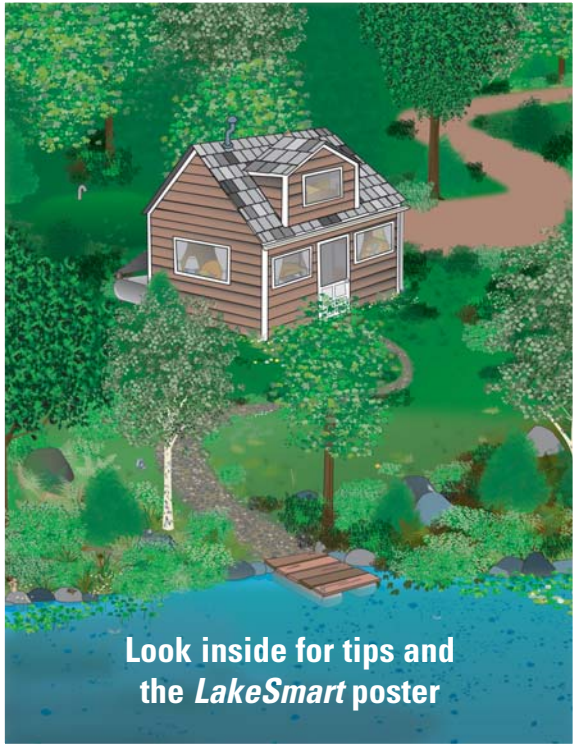


Maine Association of
Conservation Districts
207-622-4443

Be LakeSmart

for the Sake of Your Lake

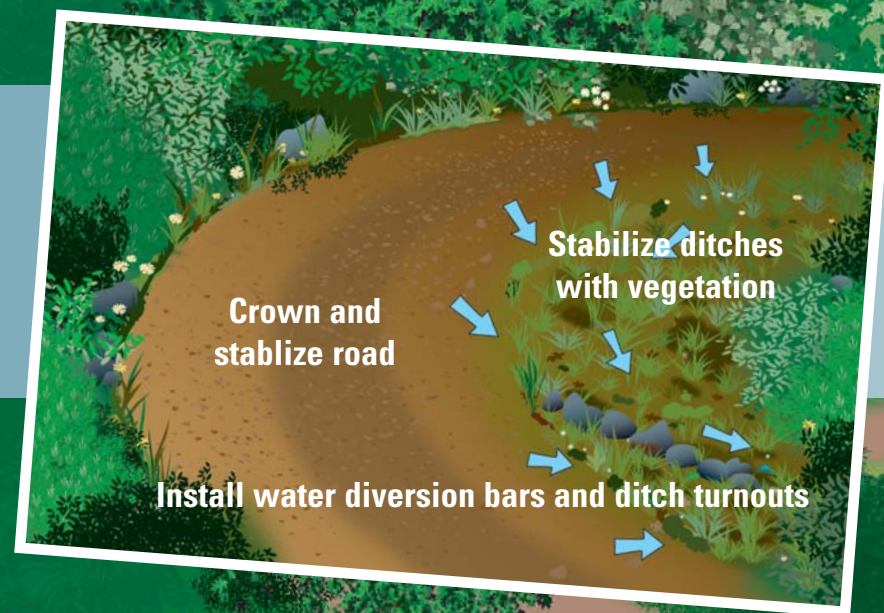
Do you value Maine's clear, clean lakes? What is it worth to see the beautiful panorama of your lake or to hear the song of the loon or spend an endless summer day boating? Are you protecting clean water so your children and grandchildren can experience the delight of your lake?



Be *LakeSmart* to make a difference to your lake while you beautify your property and enhance its value. The goal of *LakeSmart* is to convert the increasingly common, suburban landscaping around lakes to more natural, lake-friendly landscapes.

21 Ways This Property Is *LakeSmart*.

This typical older camp, sited closer to the lake than current regulations allow, protects the lake when doing all the practices listed below.



Pump septic system every 3-5 years

Keep septic system free of woody growth

Cover exterior heating tank

Buy fewer chemicals, store safely, dispose at hazardous waste collection site

Minimize and define parking area

Plant vegetation downhill of parking area

Direct roof runoff to a rain garden

Apply pesticides **ONLY** as a last resort, avoid use for aesthetic purposes.

Pick up pet waste and put in trash

Maintain or enhance native vegetation (buffer) including tall trees, short trees, shrubs and ground cover

Leave duff layer as natural mulch

Leave native water plants to stabilize shoreline

Make paths stable and winding

Cut grass at 3 inches, leave clippings to minimize use of fertilizers

Minimize lawn area

Plant or mulch all bare soil

Keep shoreline stable by not disturbing vegetation and rocks

Remove dock each fall

Many homeowners in Maine have been the proud recipients of the *LakeSmart* sign and personalized plaque honoring their efforts to keep their lakes clean. Go to www.MaineDEP.com to see who is a *LakeSmart* award winner in your area.

For more information call Maine Association of Conservation Districts, MACD at 207-622-4443 or Maine Department of Environmental Protection, DEP at 800-452-1942.